

CHESHAM PRAISE BLUES ACTION

WYCOMBE Wanderers' request to withdraw from the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup after fielding an ineligible player against Chesham United in the semi-final has brought praise from Chesham, who now seem set to win their first Senior Cup since 1967.

Their secretary Mr. David Barnes said of Wanderers' action, "It's taken me aback a bit but I admire them for it. They have spared the Berks and Bucks making a very awkward decision."

The Berks and Bucks have indeed accepted Wycombe's request, so the final between Chesham United and Rothmans Hellenic League side Hungerford Town will now be played at Slough on Easter Monday, April 19. Chesham chairman, Mr Don Flitney admits, "it will be a rather strange final but we are looking forward to it with great hopes."

Hungerford who played Graham Mackenzie in the first qualifying round of the Senior Cup back in September and thus made him ineligible to play for Wycombe, were slightly saddened not to be playing the Blues in the final.

Club secretary, Mr R. J. Edmonds said, "We are disappointed in some ways. But we know both clubs well and it doesn't really matter who we play. We are just happy to be in the final for the first time in our history."

UNAWARE

Wycombe Wanderers reiterated this week they were unaware that Mackenzie had been cup-tied with Hungerford when they picked him for the Chesham match.

When the Berks and Bucks informed them that they had broken the rules, Wycombe wrote a letter from which the following extract is taken.

Secretary Mr John

Goldsworthy wrote: "On behalf of my club I tender my apologies to your Association for the most unfortunate breach of the rules and in view of the doubts which will now be cast on the integrity of the club, we see no option but to seek your committee's permission to withdraw from further participation in the competition."

A three-man emergency committee of the County F.A. met on Friday to discuss the letter. But it was five days later, on Wednesday, before they issued the following statement.

"Following an inquiry by the Berks and Bucks F.A. as to the ineligibility of a player for Wycombe Wanderers in the semi-final tie on February 21, which on receipt of correspondence was admitted by that club, the Association has acceded to a request from Wycombe to withdraw from this season's Senior Cup competition in accordance with Cup Rule 24."

Mr Goldsworthy, on hearing the County's decision, says he hopes to arrange another attractive fixture on Easter Monday for Wycombe Wanderers, in place of the final.